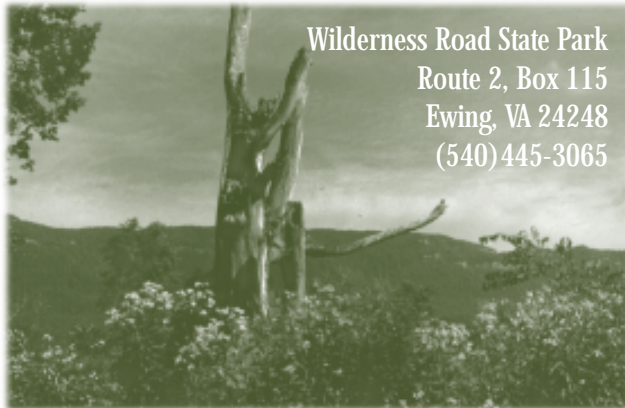




Wilderness Road State Park



Hours of operation vary with the season.



Wilderness Road State Park
Route 2, Box 115
Ewing, VA 24248
(540) 445-3065

For more information about places to visit in the area,
contact the Lee County, Va., Chamber of Commerce,
(540) 346-0053;

Virginia Coalfield Regional
Tourism Development Authority, 888 - SWVA-FUN;
Virginia Tourism Corporation, (804) 786-4484.

For information about other Virginia State Parks,
call or write:

Department of Conservation and Recreation
203 Governor St., Suite 213
Richmond, VA 23219
(804) 786-1712

<http://www.dcr.state.va.us>



Wilderness Road State Park



Ewing, Virginia

The History

Wilderness Road State Park is in a geographically and historically significant region of Virginia. The park sits astride the Wilderness Road that winds down the valley. In 1775, Daniel Boone carved the Wilderness Road, and by 1800 more than 300,000 settlers traveled the Wilderness Road westward through Cumberland Gap into Kentucky and the Midwest.

Wilderness Road State Park was originally part of a farm owned by Robert M. Ely. The mansion was built in the late 1870s, and several generations of Ely descendants lived there for many years. The surrounding rural area still bears the name "Elydale" after the Ely family.

Karl and Ann Harris purchased the mansion and surrounding property in the 1940s, and the mansion's name, "Karlan," is a combination of their names. After several renovations throughout the years, the mansion's basic structure remains the same.

Purchased in 1993, the park is one of four new state parks created by the Department of Conservation and Recreation with funds from the 1992 bond referendum.



The Park

Nestled at the base of the Cumberland Mountains, Wilderness Road State Park features 200 acres of scenic rolling countryside, the Wilderness Road Trail and an 1870s mansion surrounded by beautiful 100-year-old maple trees.

Although Karlan Mansion is unfurnished, the mansion and grounds can be rented for weddings, meetings and special events. The mansion grounds are open for strolling and picnicking.

Wilderness Road State Park is a day use park with limited facilities. Many animals including bluebirds, groundhogs, owls, deer, and other types of furred and feather friends call the park home. The wooded areas of the park host many wildflowers such as Columbine, Bloodroot, Jack-in-the-Pulpit and the dainty Spotted Wintergreen.

The park offers seasonal tube rentals for water recreation on Indian Creek within the park. Canoe livery and guided canoe trips along the Powell River also are available.

The Wilderness Road Trail, a 10-mile, linear hiking, biking and equestrian trail, bisects the park. Visitors can rent bikes and ride the Wilderness Road Trail, and the park is an ideal place for visitors to park cars or horse trailers and access the trail. The trail connects the park with the campgrounds at Cumberland Gap National Historical Park, about six miles away.

Snacks and souvenirs are available seasonally at the Outpost, next to the Wilderness Road Trail. The park also has a self-guided hiking trail with a brochure along with interpretive and environmental education programs for visitors of all ages.

Plans include additional hiking, biking and horse trails, permanent picnic shelters and a visitor center. Wilderness Road State Park will eventually be the site of a reproduction pioneer village and fort house featuring life as it was in the days of the nation's great westward expansion.

The Area

Wilderness Road State Park is five miles west of Ewing, Va., at the intersection of Route 58 and 923, and six miles east of Cumberland Gap National Historical Park, Middlesboro, Ky. Nearby attractions include Cumberland Gap National Historical Park, historic Cumberland Gap, Tenn., the Lincoln Museum, Norris Lake, Tenn., and Kentucky's Pine Mountain State Park.

Area Virginia State Parks include the Southwest Virginia Museum and Natural Tunnel State Park. The museum tells the story of the exploration and development of Southwest Virginia. Natural Tunnel provides overnight camping, swimming, a chair lift and the beauty of its natural resources.